

# Urban District Council of Cockington,

*Medical Officer's Office, 29, Walnut Road,*

*Cockington, January 5th, 1899.*

## Annual Report to the Cockington Urban District Council for the year 1898.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I am pleased to be able to state that my experience for the past year in this District has been satisfactory. The Mortality during the year has not been excessive, although rather higher than of late years, there having been 38 deaths, yielding a death rate of 19 per 1,000. Three of the deaths were, however, those of visitors, which reduces the corrected average to 17·5 per 1,000, against an average of 12·37 per 1,000 for the four preceding years.

Of these deaths 4 were under 1 year, 1 between 1 and 5 years, 1 between 5 and 15 years, 2 between 15 and 25 years, 13 between 25 and 65 years, and 17 over 65 years.

As regards the health of the District, I consider that we have been exceptionally fortunate this last year, only five cases of infectious disease having been notified during the whole period, four of which were exceedingly mild cases of scarlatina. Two were imported. The origin of the other two I was unable to trace. They were separated by wide intervals of time from one another, and the infection did not spread. The fifth case was one of septicæmia, the original of which I could not trace.

Whilst speaking of infectious diseases, there is one matter which affords me intense satisfaction. I allude to the fact that our Council has, owing to the co-operation of the Lord of the Manor, been able to hire a house, in a suitable position, and situated more than a quarter of a mile from any dwelling, which they have adequately furnished and fitted up as an Isolation Hospital, so that, in case of need, we may not be behind our neighbours in possessing this most necessary means of checking epidemic disease.

I consider that Cockington is exceedingly fortunate in its accessories to health. Its water is good, being, as you know, derived from the Torquay Reservoirs, and its drainage system is remarkably free from any serious defects, as is proved by the fact that there has not been a case of typhoid fever notified for more than two years and a half.

All this is highly satisfactory, but there is one weak place in the sanitary armour of all towns, be the Sanitary Authorities ever so vigilant. I allude to the importation of infected milk from farms outside the district.



This matter, as you are aware, has been discussed very freely of late in the public press, various legislative measures having been suggested, but, until some effectual remedy for this danger has come into operation, I should like to impress upon this Council, and, through their influence, the general public at large, the advisability of boiling all milk as soon as it is taken into the house.

If this were done universally, I am convinced that a very large number of the cases of consumption, typhoid fever, scarlatina, and diphtheria would be prevented, the germs of these diseases being killed by the boiling.

The Bakehouses and Slaughterhouses have been inspected, and the police have visited the retail milk shops in the district, samples being taken and sent to the Public Analyst, one conviction for adulteration ensuing.

Mr. Cowling, the Sanitary Inspector, reports that he has tested the drains and had the defects remedied in 47 inhabited houses during the year. Twenty-five new houses have been inspected and passed for occupation, and plans of 8 new houses have been approved of.

I am,

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

H. de R. MORGAN, M.A., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,

*Medical Officer of Health.*

